

Conservation Action Plan

Perisher wallaby-grass (*Rytidosperma vickeryae*)

This plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of s.78C of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019 (Reg.) in relation to an Asset of Intergenerational Significance (AIS) as declared under s.153G of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

Site details

AIS site	AIS-E0-075
Site location	An area of 585 hectares in Kosciuszko National Park
NPWS contact	Team Leader Conservation, Southern Ranges Branch

Environmental values

This table sets out the environmental values for which the land was listed as an AIS (Reg. 78C(3)(a)).

Identified value(s)	Value description
Important habitat for Perisher wallaby-grass	Perisher wallaby-grass is an endangered small perennial grass to 0.25 metres high. It commonly grows in sphagnum moss in montane peatland communities or along stream edges, between 1400 and 1800 metres altitude. The species is restricted to Kosciuszko National Park.

Key risks to environmental values

This table sets out the key risks to the environmental values of the land (Reg. 78C(3)(b)).

Key risk(s)	Description
Inappropriate fire regimes	Inappropriate fire timing, frequency and intensity that limits recovery or regeneration may lead to a decline of Perisher wallaby-grass population at the site.
Weeds	Habitat degradation and competition through invasion, establishment, intensification and spread of weeds (e.g., exotic perennial grasses) to the extent that recruitment or establishment of plants is impaired.
Feral herbivores	Damage to individual plants and degradation of Perisher wallaby-grass habitat by introduced herbivores, such as deer and horses, through grazing and trampling.
Feral pigs	Damage to individual plants, and degradation of habitat, by feral pigs through browsing, trampling, wallowing and rooting may lead to a decline of Perisher wallaby-grass at the site.

Key risk(s)	Description
Anthropogenic climate change	Changes to weather patterns and climatic conditions as a result of anthropogenic climate change that increases the frequency and severity of drought conditions may exceed the adaptive capacity and reduce survivorship of Perisher wallaby-grass at the site. This risk is exacerbated by the small population size of the Perisher wallaby-grass at the site.
Disturbance	Authorised infrastructure maintenance activities (e.g., construction and maintenance of roads and trails) and visitor use that leads to degradation of habitat and damage to individuals by trampling of individual plants.

Conservation activities

This table sets out the conservation activities required to:

1. Control, abate or mitigate the key risks and
2. maintain, restore and remediate the environmental values of the land (Reg. 78C(3)(c)).

Key risk(s)	Impacted site(s)	Conservation activities
Inappropriate fire regimes	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop guidance on the appropriate fire management for the habitat of the Perisher wallaby-grass within 12 months of the adoption of this plan and update as required. This guidance must provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintenance of an appropriate fire regime by developing and implementing a site-specific burn plan for the declared areas. - implementation of any required fire protection and response measures in the declared areas - integration of site-specific requirements into NPWS and NSW Government bushfire planning, risk management and operational response arrangements. • Implement fire management consistent with the guidance.
Weeds	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove weed species to the extent required to ensure weeds do not have a negative impact on Perisher wallaby-grass, by targeted application of physical and/or biological weed control.
Feral herbivores	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To the extent practicable, reduce density of feral deer to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the Perisher wallaby-grass, and maintain the density at or below that level, by shooting and other approved integrated control measures. • To the extent practicable, reduce the density of feral horses to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the Perisher wallaby-grass, and maintain the density at or below that level, by trapping, mustering and removal, and ground shooting in accordance with a wild horse plan of management approved by the Secretary.

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Key risk(s)	Impacted site(s)	Conservation activities
Feral pigs	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To the extent practicable, reduce density of feral pigs to a level that is not having an ecologically significant impact on the Perisher wallaby-grass, and maintain the density at or below that level, by trapping, baiting and shooting.
Disturbance	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake periodic reviews to identify whether infrastructure maintenance, or visitor use is having an adverse impact on Perisher wallaby-grass. If adverse impacts are observed, implement actions to mitigate the impacts. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> upgrade/realignment of trails to avoid known plants or habitat. installation of signage or more discrete marking systems to delineate exclusion areas to prevent slashing or herbicide use near sites. Installation of signage or other suitable protective structures around plants to minimise impacts from infrastructure maintenance and visitor use. If required, develop and implement guidance for staff, utility managers, contractors about appropriate maintenance practices that minimise impacts to the Perisher wallaby-grass population and habitat.
All risks	All sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish ex-situ seedbank from a genetically representative sample of the population in partnership with an appropriate seedbank facility.

Other land management activities

Within the declared land there are existing assets and infrastructure of NPWS and other external service providers, including public utilities.

Maintenance operations (including inspection, emergency works and routine and standard maintenance) that are exempt development in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, and which are performed on and around existing assets and infrastructure, are authorised under this conservation action plan (CAP) provided such operations are undertaken in a manner that aims to minimise the risk to the declared environmental values of the land and with any other required consents or approvals.

All maintenance operations on the declared land are to be undertaken in accordance with this CAP.

Measuring and reporting

This table sets out the requirements for measuring and reporting on health and condition (Reg. 78C(3)(d)).

Attribute	Metric	Method
Health and condition of the Perisher wallaby-grass population	Area of occupancy	Design and implement an annual assessment to calculate the area of occupancy of Perisher wallaby-grass at the site.

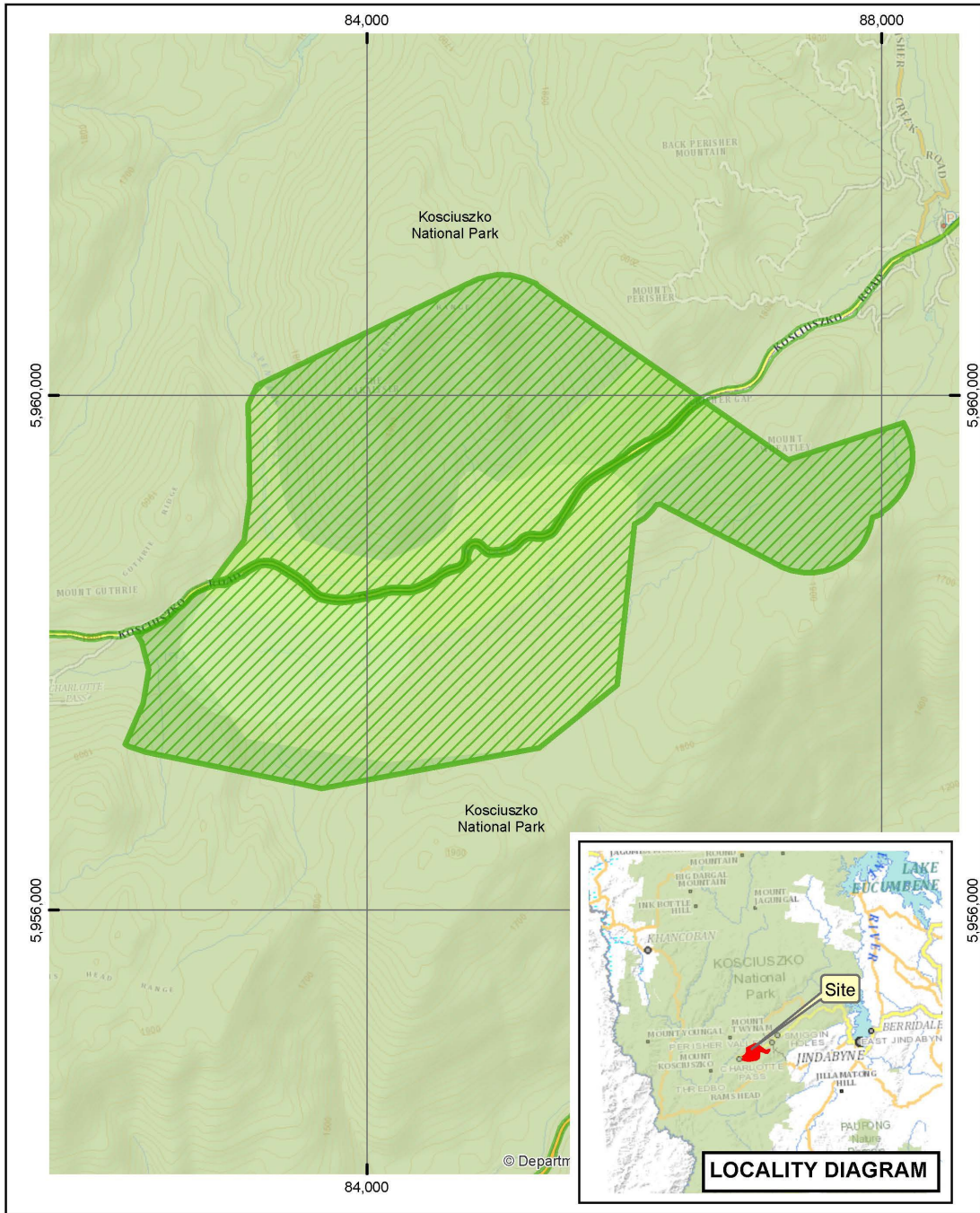
A report on the health and condition of the value for which this AIS was declared will be prepared and published on the Department of Planning and Environment website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au. The report will summarise the baseline and current health and condition of the values of the declared land and its overall trajectory.

Evaluation of conservation action plans

This CAP will be amended or replaced as new information becomes available that helps improve our management of the identified asset (Reg. 78H).

The Secretary must appoint a scientist, or a panel of scientists, to conduct a review, as soon as possible after the period of five years from the first approval of a CAP, to examine whether CAPs have been effectively implemented (Reg. 78J(1)).

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Legend

- Declared Land
- Alpine she-oak skink (*Cyclodomorphus praealtus*)
- Guthega skink (*Liopholis guthega*)
- Perisher wallaby-grass (*Rytidosperma vickeryae*)
- Raleigh sedge (*Carex raleighii*)
- NPWS Estate

AIS-E0-075

Asset of Intergenerational Significance
Alpine she-oak skink (*Cyclodomorphus praealtus*), Guthega skink (*Liopholis guthega*),
Perisher wallaby-grass (*Rytidosperma vickeryae*), and Raleigh sedge (*Carex raleighii*)
Kosciuszko National Park

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Date prepared	March 2023
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Approved by	Atticus Fleming, Acting Coordinator General, Environment and Heritage Group
Due for review	June 2028

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